

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 1**  
**INCIDENT NO. 98-027**  
**DATE: March 27, 1998      TIME: 2:00 p.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Train derailment involving hazardous materials.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: One confirmed death.
3. DAMAGES: A Canadian Pacific Railroad train carrying hazardous materials, including hydrofluorosilic acid, was derailed at 6:35 a.m. after it was struck by a semi-tractor truck. The accident occurred in Barnes County, north of Fingal, at the railroad's intersection with N.D. Highway 32. The accident claimed the life of the truck driver. Thick fog in the area had reduced visibility at the time of the accident. Rescue workers at the scene, who were trying to extricate the driver from the truck, discovered at 7:45 a.m. that hydrofluorosilic acid was leaking from one of 14 rail cars that had been derailed in the accident. Acid was flowing from the top of the rail car into a water-filled ditch. No evacuation was required, although crews moved 100 feet from the area as a safety precaution. Responders estimate that 300 gallons of the acid had spilled into the ditch by 10 a.m.
4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Local responders include Fingal Fire Department, Valley City Rescue, Barnes County Sheriff's Office, Barnes County Emergency Manager, Blumer Construction of Valley City, Gem Star Associates, Inc., of Fargo, and Canadian Pacific Railroad.

STATE: State agencies providing assistance include the N.D. Highway Patrol, the Valley City District of the N.D. Department of Transportation, N.D. Department of Health, N.D. State Fire Marshal's Office and State Radio Communications and North Dakota Emergency Management.

FEDERAL: None at this time.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: None at this time.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: In response to the hydrofluorosilic acid spill, a crew from Blumer Construction of Valley City helped rescue workers block the flow of the acid. The construction team used a dozer and clay to block a culvert located approximately 1,000 feet downstream of the spill. The Barnes County Emergency Manager reported that water from the culvert passes within 1,000 feet of Fingal. Initial testing of the water by Gem Star Associates, Inc., of Fargo indicated that no acid was detected in the water where the culvert had been blocked. The Barnes County Emergency manager reported that the spilled acid apparently has not affected Fingal's water supply.

Canadian Pacific Railroad has dispatched its hazardous materials response team from both Harvey, N.D., and Minneapolis, MN. The team will conduct cleanup efforts. The N.D. Department of Health has also dispatched personnel to the scene to provide technical assistance.

Staff from the Valley City District of the N.D. Department of Transportation and the N.D. State

Highway Patrol blocked N.D. Highway 32 and have rerouted traffic through the city of Fingal.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: None at this time.
9. OTHER: Responders report that N.D. Highway 32 may be closed for up to two days until cleanup efforts have been completed.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director